

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TAIPEI 003551

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -  
ROBERT PALLADINO  
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: BUSH-HU APEC MEETING AND U.S.  
ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

"Once Bush and Hu Meet and Talk About Arms Sales to  
Taiwan . Hu Jintao [Raises the Issue] and the United  
States Replies, It Will Be Like Opening Pandora's Box"

Professor Chen I-hsin of the Graduate Institute of  
American Studies, Tamkang University, commented in the  
conservative, pro-unification, "United Daily News"  
(11/10):

"One development in the recent U.S. general elections  
that is related to cross-Strait affairs is the rise of  
U.S. conservative forces. This indicates that the  
Republican Party will focus more on business and market  
interests. As China now enjoys a huge economic appeal  
and increasing national strength, the answer would be  
obvious if one is asked to choose sides between the  
mainland and Taiwan. Therefore, regarding the upcoming  
Bush-Hu [APEC] meeting, Taiwan's national security and  
foreign relation units should never be as negligent as  
they were during Secretary of State Colin Powell's  
visit to Beijing . If Hu Jintao raises more demands to  
the United States, we can expect that, in addition to  
abiding by the 'one-China' policy and further bilateral  
cooperation in preventing 'Taiwan independence,' he  
would certainly ask for reduced U.S. arms sales to  
Taiwan.

". Limiting U.S. arms sales to Taiwan has always been  
Beijing's goal. The main reason is that arms deals are  
made between sovereign states. Beijing knows that as  
long as the United States continues to sell arms to  
Taiwan, it cannot totally deny the de facto and de jure  
existence of Taiwan's sovereignty. . Should [the U.S.  
side] reply to Beijing's question about U.S. arms sales  
to Taiwan, it may result in something like the opening  
of Pandora's box and bring about many problems. .  
Therefore, whether Hu Jintao will raise the arms sale  
issue during his meeting with President Bush at APEC is  
an important indicator that is worth watching closely."

KEEGAN